

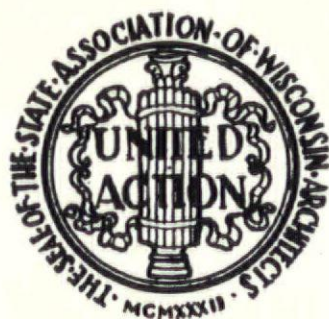
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THE  
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ARCHITECT

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN ARCHITECTS  
WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS  
BUILDING CONGRESS OF WISCONSIN

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*State Architects' Stag Outing*

*Williamsburg, Virginia*

*Convention Tidbits*

*Executive Board Meeting Minutes*

*Report of Convention Business Meetings*



## Williamsburg, Virginia

By RICHARD PHILIPP

The earliest settlements in Virginia were along the James and York Rivers. Inland travel was difficult and naturally the places that could be reached by ships were what determined the settlements. In this way Jamestown was founded, in 1607, and remained for some time the first and only settlement. A little later along the York River a small colony of pioneers settled Yorktown. This left the area between the James and York Rivers, which was perfectly good country for settlement, more or less exposed to the attacks of the Indians, so it was decided to build a palisade across the peninsula. The decision to build this followed a massacre, in 1622, by the Indians in which about one-third of the whites were slain. With the protection the palisade afforded and the increased number of settlers that gradually began to arrive it was finally determined, in 1633, that every 40th man be chosen and maintained at the expense of the entire community to settle in this region between the York and James Rivers. Every man was given 50 acres of land and freedom from all taxes and public charges. This was the beginning of what came to be known as the Middle Plantation, lying between the York and James Rivers.

Gradually a settlement developed in this region, which is now Williamsburg. In 1644 the Indians rose again in a great massacre, but the settlers were gaining in number and strength and gradually pushed the Indians back into the more remote regions. A new palisade was built across the peninsula, the old one having fallen into ruin.

A parish was established prior to 1658 and in 1674 Middletown Parish was united with Marston Parish and formed Bruton Parish, which remains to this day.

It seems they had their little difficulties in the earlier days. One John Pott, physician general to the Colony was a man in whom, as the old chroniclers said, "There was a great conflict of virtue and mischief," for although he had served as governor in 1629, he was convicted of stealing cattle in 1630.

By about 1676 this Middle Plantation had become of considerable importance and was counted as second only to Jamestown. In that same year one Nathaniel Bacon, Jr., first led an expedition that marched against the savages. This ended in open war against the tyrannical

actions of William Berkely who was then the King's governor. This also was a protest against taxes which were mightily increased for the enrichment of the grandees who surrounded the governor.

Berkely was defeated but later returned to fortify Jamestown. Bacon promptly marched upon the town, laid siege to it and defeated Berkely and burned the town. But during the siege he contracted a fever and died. That ended Bacon's Rebellion. Berkely returned and hanged all the rebels he could get hold of.

Middle Plantation played a very prominent part in this Bacon Rebellion and the various happenings gradually led to the building of the city of Williamsburg. The colonies struggled along with various difficulties, but gradually developed.

The higher country of the Middle Plantation was really more healthful than the low country in which Jamestown was situated, so although the State House was ordered to be rebuilt, after the Bacon Rebellion, at Jamestown, the place never regained its former prominence, and in 1693 King William and Queen Mary granted a charter for the founding of a College in their honor to be known as William and Mary College, and it was determined to place this at Williamsburg.

The founding of the College grew mainly through the efforts of James Blair, a young Scotch clergyman in the Colony, who having suggested the plan in Virginia, was sent to England by the Assembly to promote the design at Court. There he secured the charter and a generous endowment from the crown, and additional money from private persons, and as the old chronicler said, "from certain pirates whom he found in prison and who were desirous of their freedom."

The foundations for the principal college building were begun in 1695 under one Thomas Hadley sent from England to fulfill the plans which had been prepared by Sir Christopher Wren.

In 1698 the New State House at Jamestown was burned and then finally the seat of government was transferred to Williamsburg. It was not until 1699 that the name of Middle Plantation was changed to the City of Williamsburg. All this, however, was just a preamble to what later developed there. The place prospered and grew and gained in importance. Many of its citizens played a very prominent part in the Revolution. Jefferson was trained there in the College. Washington was connected with it as surveyor. Patrick Henry was active as a lawyer.

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It was not, however, until the early years of the 18th Century that Williamsburg began to take shape as a city. In 1706 an act was passed by the Assembly directing the building of a house for the governor.

Among those who did a great deal towards developing Williamsburg was Colonel Alexander Spotswood who arrived in 1710 as Lt. Governor. He was said to have been a man of great vigor and many abilities. He found the governor's house in the process of being built but the work at a halt, so he himself brought it to completion. He found the College in ruin, having been damaged by fire in 1705, and the parish church in bad condition. Both of these he began to rebuild. At the same time, also, private houses began to be built, some of brick—most of wood. Streets were laid out, and then Williamsburg began to assume an air of importance.

The governor also sent an expedition against pirates on the seas who were proving a hindrance to prosperity. Some of them were captured and hanged along the principal streets of Williamsburg.

(This is the First of Two Articles)

### Convention Tidbits

By WILLIAM G. HERBST, President, Wisconsin Chapter, A. I. A.

A convention even when conducted under such an austere body of men as embrace the architectural profession, in addition to its grave discussions, must of necessity also have its lighter moments, and for those who failed out of choice or necessity to attend the 68th Convention of the A. I. A. at Williamsburg, Va., this brief resume is recorded.

Those who motored down to Old Point Comfort had a distinct advantage insofar as they not only enjoyed the scenic beauties of Virginia highways leading through gigantic forest reserves over a mountainous country but also had the advantage of individual transportation enabling them to travel daily the 40 miles of inconvenience between sleeping and meeting. Unless you had continually in your possession the printed guide showing in what part of Virginia the next session of the Convention was to be held, you might find yourself stranded on the Peninsula of Old Point Comfort surrounded only by Uncle Sam's marines or perhaps in the historical atmosphere of old Williamsburg. If you were stranded in the latter place you were fortunate except that it might have been necessary for you to sleep on

one of the two park benches generously provided for a walk-wearied sightseeing public.

The arrangements made for the delegates was unique to say the least; we slept in one building, that is those who were fortunate enough to get a place to sleep. The business sessions of the convention were held in Williamsburg some 40 miles away from where you kept your tooth brush, in the auditorium of the College of William and Mary, and you dined in another building by walking across the campus, over the Jamestown highway and then into the refectory of the college or if you were just a little snooty you went to the Williamsburg Inn or the Travis House, very quaint and interesting hostelrys serving excellent food. Some of the delegates also found the Westeria Inn, some 10 miles away from where they took their morning shower, where a delightful mammy prepared southern breakfast in a mid-Victorian atmosphere and where the hostess delighted to tell you of her ancestors and her descent from a family tree that sprouted from the tomb of George Washington. Her pride was great although her family may be only a badly bent twig of the great Washington family tree.

It was rumored that the hotel assigned as headquarters for the convention had been abandoned for some time previous to April 1, 1936, when it was again opened for the public. This may account for some of the habitation that did not check out at the time when it folded up for reasons unknown to the writer. At any rate I know of one delegate who threatened to have his entire wardrobe fumigated as soon as he got out of the danger zone. An alarm clock for the sound sleeper was also an instrument that could be entirely dispensed with, because Uncle Sam's marines also controlled this situation by blasting a battery of bugles known in military parlance as "Reveille," just about at the time when dawn is prowling around the sky to put out the stars. If you, however, missed these musical notes a few of the more alert marines accommodated you by driving three or four caterpillar-operated 10" long-range guns about 16 feet in length. The motive power to draw these huge instruments of destruction of course had no muffler silencers, and the caterpillars left their rubber shoes hidden somewhere in Fort Monroe so that the concrete pavements over which these monsters were driven could absorb all the noise possible and at an hour in the morning when you were just turning over to get that extra

(Continued on page 5)

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Official Publication

The State Association of Wisconsin Architects

The Building Congress of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Chapter, The American Institute of Architects

LEIGH HUNT, Editor  
152 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee

JOHN S. HOLBROOK, Publisher  
724 E. Mason Street, Milwaukee

Published Monthly Subscription, \$1.00 per year

Address all communications for publication to Editor at 152 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee.

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## Minutes of the May Meeting of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects Held at the City Club, May 22, 1936

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Theodore L. Eschweiler at 12:55 P. M. The following members were present: Leo. A. Brielmaier, Edgar A. Stubenrauch, Henry Auler, Peter Brust, Theodore L. Eschweiler, Leigh Hunt, Herbert Tullgren, Wm. G. Herbst, Edgar Berners, Herman Buemming, Roger Kirchhoff, and proxies were received from the following members: Arthur L. Seidenschwartz, Fitzhugh Scott, Grover Lippert, Ellis J. Potter and Urban F. Peacock.

There were two guests—Frank J. Hoffmann and William F. Michelsen of Racine, Wisconsin.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, stated that he had intended that the May meeting be held in Racine, to discuss the problems of the Eighth District, but he found it impossible to do so at the last minute and, as a consequence, had invited Frank J. Hoffmann, Chairman of the Practice Committee, and William F. Michelsen, Chairman of the District, to be present at this Board meeting to discuss the problems of the Eighth District.

The President requested suggestions from the members of the Board and the following responded:

Messrs: Tullgren, Brust, Brielmaier, Eschweiler, Stubenrauch, Auler and Buemming.

The general discussion was terminated by a suggestion from Leo A. Brielmaier that the Board have its meeting on the evening of Friday, June 19th, at Racine, Wisconsin, as the guests of the Eighth District, and that a letter be sent to each member of the Board requesting their attendance and asking for a written reply.

Peter Brust made a motion that a Special Committee be appointed by the Chair to study the question of revising the By-Laws, changing them so that only the dues-paying members can qualify for membership. This motion was seconded by Roger Kirchhoff and was carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Peter Brust that the Secretary write a letter to Arthur H. Kienapple, President of the Seventh District, accepting his resignation with regret. This motion was seconded by Leo A. Brielmaier and unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Leigh Hunt, and seconded by Peter Brust, authorizing the Milwaukee Journal and Sentinel to publish a similar ad in the Sunday papers to the one published in the Wisconsin News of May 22nd. These papers to solicit the Architects with the permission of the Board. The State Association is to assume no financial obligation for the insertion of these ads. Motion unanimously carried.

It was the general opinion of the Board that this type of direct advertising, recommending the employment of a capable Architect, without mentioning architects' names, was the most acceptable type of advertising and should be repeated at regular intervals.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P. M.

ARTHUR L. SEIDENSCHWARTZ,  
Secretary,  
Per LEIGH HUNT,  
Secretary, Pro Tem.



(Continued from page 3)

40 winks. After being so unconventionally awakened, if you were wise, you took the hint, got yourself showered and shaved and prepared yourself for another journey along the Colonial Memorial Highway through historic Yorktown on to Williamsburg and breakfast. You then had an hour or two to browse around this historical spot and visit various places of interest before the morning business session of the convention started.

Due credit must be given to the Program Committee of the Convention in that the business sessions were so timed that you had ample leisure to visit such points of interest as the various historical Virginia Plantations, notably Carter's Grove near Williamsburg, upper and lower Brandon across the James River, Westover and Shirley, which could also be reached by crossing the James River. The ferry over this river, by the way, was operated by the Highway Department and was the one thing that was "Free Gratis und Umsonst" quoting my travelling companion, Richard Philipp. To describe the architectural gems of these 200 year old mansions with their exquisite gardens of such immense scale would take reams of paper and a man no less qualified than Sir Christopher Wren himself, who no doubt played an important part in the development of some of these historic buildings and gardens.

And now let me briefly dwell upon some of the more personal happenings of our representatives. The second and third day of the convention an epidemic of hat loos-erites struck our Wisconsin delegation. The first one to loose his head gear was no less a personage than our own Regional Director who we thought went collegiate all of a sudden but after airing his noble dome for two days some kind and alert hotel attendant discovered the bonnet under one of the writing desks where Gerry thought he had it safely hidden from an alert check room girl. The next home town gent to misplace his deckel was our friend Herman Buemming; to him it became quite serious as he needed his for the protection of a somewhat thinning-out dome. After getting every Spencer Dean of the hotel staff working on the case the wandering Stetson was finally recovered. To make sure that it was his own he put on his glasses and in the excitement of identification he "left them lay" and they had to be sent to him via Washington by courtesy of Peter Brust.

Another incident which created considerable concern and excitement was when our genial regional director went sightseeing. He evidently was so absorbed in his historical surroundings that the amply wide Virginia

highways were not wide enough. At any rate an S.O.S. was sent via Williamsburg that a car somewhere along the highway was in distress and needed some assistance to get out of one of the Canyons that usually parallel an elevated highway. However, no damage was done to either car or its occupants, and we all again breathed in comfort when we saw his Rolls Royce come rolling down Williamsburg's main thoroughfare.

Another great catastrophe happened on Tuesday evening, at the reception given by President and Mrs. Voorhees, when a waiter had the misfortune of dropping a tray upon which were reposing 16 mint juleps all ready for consumption; but alas the mops got it all; what a headache they must have had the morning after!

During the recess periods of the Convention the Wisconsin delegation was pretty well scattered over the entire Virginia Peninsula. At the banquet Friday evening, however, the entire Milwaukee delegation, graced by the additional charm of their lady escorts, were all seated together at the Wisconsin Table where a 75c meal was served at \$3.25 per, including a partially emptied bottle of Burgundy, which the waiter later appropriated for his personal consumption. If the victuals that were served were not up to Banquet Specifications the splendid singing of the Hampton School colored a capella choir and the jovial manner in which the Wisconsin contingent reminisced over the happenings of the convention and all that went with it made up for those who experienced a disappointment in the four canned strawberries and a dash of whipped cream which was served as a dessert.

After the Banquet and the din of handclapping had subsided at about the hour of 11:30 p. m., we came to the realization that the joker of the past week's dissipation was yet to come up for a reckoning in the person of the exchequer of the hotel. But after this little matter was disposed of and we received our waiver of lien a kind good night was exchanged by all with the good wishes of a pleasant and safe journey for the next day which started at 5:30 a. m. by the writer and his genial travelling companion and then on the road to "Rome" and "Home."

The Wisconsin Chapter may well be proud of its numerical representatives at the Convention in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. G. J. DeGelleke, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brust, Mr. Richard Philipp, Mr. Herman Buemming, Mr. and Mrs. Berners of Green Bay and Miss Berners, Mr. Henry Foeller of Green Bay, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Schneider, Mr. Arthur Runzler, and Mr. Wm. G. Herbst.



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## Report of the Business Meetings of the 68th Convention of the American Institute of Architects, held at Old Point Comfort and at Williamsburg, Virginia, May 5, 6, 7 and 8, 1936

By PETER BRUST

The convention was opened Tuesday morning at the hotel at Old Point Comfort by an extemporaneous address by President Voorhees.

This was followed by a meeting and dinner of the Producers' Council, which in turn was followed by the afternoon session of the convention at which the amendments to the by-laws of the Institute were considered. Many modifications of the proposed amendments were proposed by various Chapters and approved. After two hours discussion President Voorhees closed the afternoon session with an invitation to the delegates to a reception given by himself and Mrs. Voorhees on the roof garden.

The evening session was called at 9 o'clock and consideration of the amendments to the by-laws was continued and completed with the remark by the President, "that we should all thank the Lord that this job is finished."

The Nominating Committee made its report and all the old officers of the Institute were re-nominated and re-elected.

Mr. Gerrit J. DeGelleke was elected new regional director of the new Illinois-Wisconsin division of the Institute.

The morning session of the second day of the con-

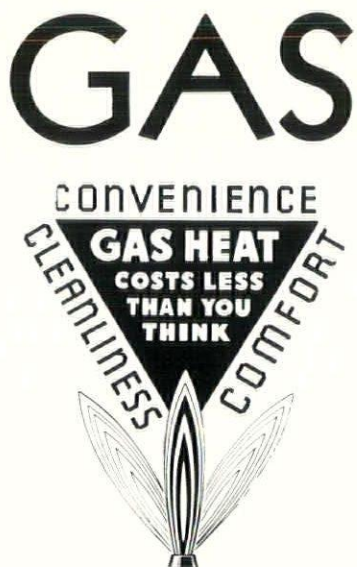
vention opened at the Phi Beta Kappa Hall of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg. At this session the convention was addressed by Dr. John Stewart Bryan, the president of the College of William and Mary and also by a member of Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., and by Mr. William A. Perry of Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, architects of the restoration.

After this the delegates adjourned to Bruton Church several blocks away where they attended a short service followed by an address by Dr. Goodwin, whose dreams lead to the reconstruction of Williamsburg Village.

From the Church the members adjourned to the refectory of the College of William and Mary where a luncheon was served the delegates with the compliments of the College.

The afternoon was spent in visiting the restored buildings in Williamsburg.

The third day session was held in the same hall as that of the second day and was devoted mainly to two subjects, one on housing which was lead by Mr. Schreve, the Chairman of the Committee on Housing, and the other on public buildings which was lead by Mr. Sullivan, Chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings. The discussion on housing was participated in by dele-



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gates of most of the chapters. The most informative talk was given by Mr. Ditchey of Detroit, who promised to send the President of the Wisconsin Chapter a copy of his talk.

At the opening of the discussion on public buildings a delegate offered a resolution that it is the sense of the meeting that competitions are the best method of selecting an architect for public buildings. This resolution aroused intense discussion which at first was favorable until Mr. DeGelleke pointed out the weaknesses of this method of selecting architects for public buildings. After his talk, those who opposed it joined him in expressing their views and induced the delegates to vote down the resolution.

Both of these discussions were cut short for lack of time, although many persons were anxious to continue. The President announced a continuation of the discussion of both of these subjects at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

About fifty architectural students from twenty-six Universities were present by invitation of the A. I. A. at this session for the purpose of showing them what an architectural convention is like and arouse a keener interest in their future profession.

The evening meeting was conducted at the Hotel at Old Point Comfort, First Vice-President Louis La Baume presiding. The first subject for discussion was on architectural education which was lead by William Emerson, Chairman of the Committee on Education.

At the close of this discussion announcement was made that the late Edward Langley, A. I. A., of Scranton, Pa., left a bequest of \$104,000 to the Institute for the establishment of an architectural scholarship to be known as the "Edward Langley Scholarship."

This was followed by discussion of construction industries relations, lead by Wm. Stanley Parker, Chairman of Construction Industries Relations.

The morning of the fourth day's session was devoted to new business and report of the Committee on Resolutions. This session was an open forum in which every imaginable subject was brought up for discussion and concluded with the adoption of a resolution either for or against the subject matter.

The Wagner Bill, S 4424, offered in the Senate of the United States to provide financial assistance to the States to improve housing conditions, was distributed in printed form and the request made that this bill be supported by Chapters of the Institute.

Vice-President Louis La Baume offered a very beautifully worded and eloquent resolution of thanks to the College of William and Mary, and the Village of Williamsburg for their generous hospitality to the A. I. A. while the convention assembled in Williamsburg.

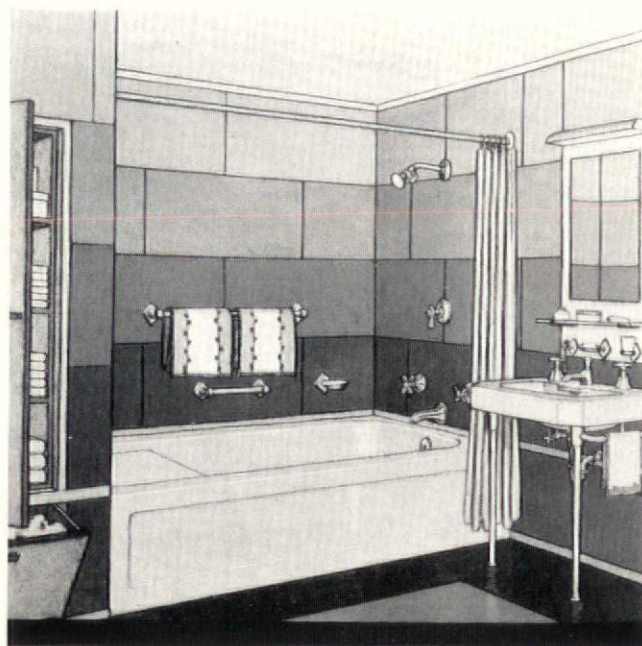
The Detroit Chapter made a request that the next convention be held at the City of Detroit.

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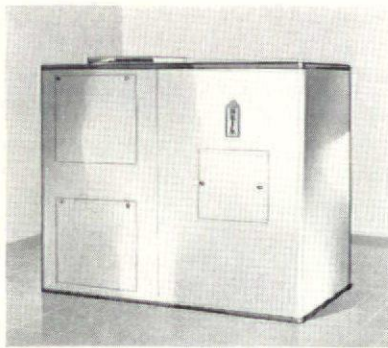
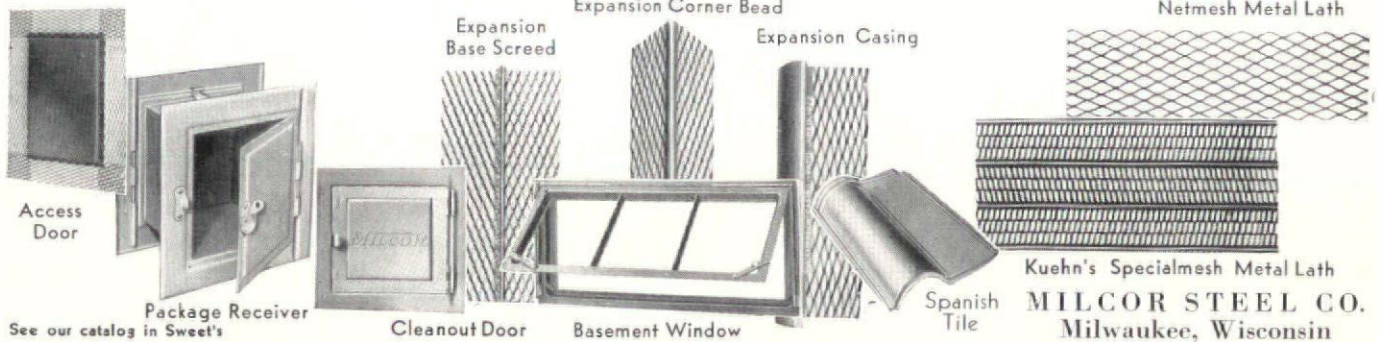


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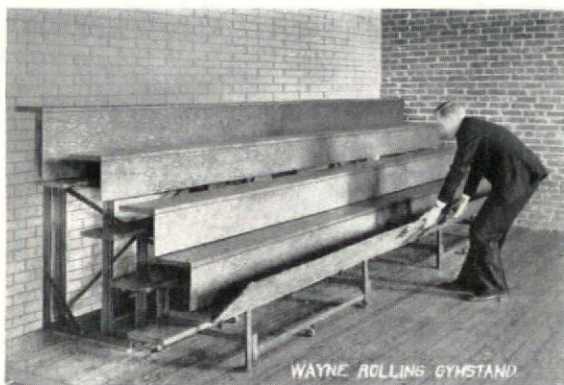
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